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WINCANTON  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**MEDICAL OFFICER**

**OF HEALTH**

---

**FOR THE**

**YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 1957**



Wincanton,  
Somerset.  
May, 1958.

To the  
Rural District Council of Wincanton

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1957.

**1.—GENERAL STATISTICS**

Area (in acres) ...	...	...	...	...	64,540
Population (1957) ...	...	...	...	...	17,490
Number of inhabited houses (1957) ...	...	...	...	...	5,631
Rateable Value (31st March, 1957) ...	...	...	...	...	£143,905
Net Product of Penny Rate (1957) ...	...	...	...	...	£564

**2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR**

**BIRTHS**

		Males	Females
Live Births	Total	120	129
	Legitimate	115	125
	Illegitimate	5	4
Still Births	Total	0	3
	Legitimate	0	3
	Illegitimate	0	0

**DEATHS**

Death from all causes: Total, 201. Males, 102. Females, 99.

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth:

(a) from sepsis ...	...	...	nil
(b) from other causes ...	...	...	nil

Death of Infants under one year of age:

				Males	Females
Total ...	...	...	...	3	1
Legitimate ...	...	...	...	3	0
Illegitimate ...	...	...	...	0	1

				Males	Females
Deaths of Infants under one week	...	...		2	1
„ „ „ from one to four weeks					
		(inclusive)	...	0	0
„ „ „ from one to six months	...			0	0
„ „ „ from six to twelve months				1	0
Total				3	1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...			...	...
„ „ Diarrhoea (under two years of age)				...	...

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of Deaths occurring in the District was 201, compared with 219 in 1956.

The chief causes of Death were:

Old Age	...	...	...	28	Cancer	...	...	...	35
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	53	Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	42

In all "Causes of Death":

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were 48

„ „ „ „ „ 81 „ 85 „ 23

„ „ „ „ „ 86 „ 90 „ 22

„ „ over the age of 90 were 4

A total of 97 or 48.02 per cent of the total Deaths.

### 3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Puerpal Pyrexia	...	...	5
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	36
Whooping Cough	...	...	156
Pneumonia	...	...	16
Tuberculosis:			
(a) Respiratory	...	...	2
(b) Non-Respiratory	...	...	2

Notification of Infectious Diseases by Medical Practitioners was very satisfactory.

#### Ophthalmia Neonatorium

No case notified.



#### 4.—CAUSES OF SICKNESS

Influenza was very prevalent in the District during the early and middle months of the year. Children of school age and below were most frequently attacked, the illness usually lasted for about a week and at these ages complications were rare, but when the disease attacked the elderly, pulmonary complications were very likely to occur occasionally with fatal results; there were in fact 17 deaths attributed to Influenza and the two commonest complications, viz. Pneumonia and Bronchitis.

#### 5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT

##### A.—Professional Nursing in the Home

- (1) **General.**—There are eleven nurses in the district engaged in general district work who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association, and between them they cover the whole district.
- (2) **For Infectious Diseases.**—One of the cases of infectious disease was removed to an Isolation Hospital, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the district.

##### B.—Midwives

There are eleven certified midwives practising in the district.

##### C.—Clinics and Treatment Centres

In Wincanton there are ophthalmic and physiotherapy clinics provided and staffed by the County Council, and the South Somerset Hospital Management Committee respectively, and a physiotherapy clinic at Castle Cary staffed by the latter.

##### D.—Hospitals available for the District

- (1) **Tuberculosis.**—None.
- (2) **Fever.**—None.
- (3) **Other.**—(a) There is a Cottage Hospital at Wincanton, known as the “Wincanton and East Somerset Memorial Hospital”, for the treatment of general, medical and surgical cases.  
(b) There is a Cottage Hospital at Templecombe, known as the “Merthyr Guest Memorial Hospital”, for the treatment of Maternity cases.

(c) There is a Public Assistance Institution at Wincanton for the aged and infirm under the Public Assistance Committee of the County Council, and the Regional Hospital Board. This Institution has been improved and modernised during the year and the number of beds available has been increased by the taking over of Rodber House.

(d) There is a Hospital at Wincanton, known as "Verrington Hospital", for aged persons, suffering from chronic ailments.

#### **E.—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children**

None.

#### **F.—Ambulance Facilities**

(1) **For Infectious Cases.**—None in the District.

(2) **For Non-Infectious and Accident Cases.**—There is a British Red Cross Society Ambulance, staffed by British Red Cross personnel, kept at Castle Cary. In addition, Ambulances from Shepton Mallet and Gillingham, Dorset, have been used as occasion requires.

#### **H.—Scabies**

No cases have been brought to my notice.

### **6.—LABORATORY WORK**

Examination of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at the Public Health Laboratories at Taunton and Yeovil, and considerable use of these laboratories has been made during the year.

A supply of diptheria antitoxin is kept at Messrs. Knight and Sons (Chemists), Wincanton, and is supplied to Practitioners on the National Health Service Prescription Form.

### **7.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**

The Public Health Department consists of the Senior Public Health Inspector, two additional Public Health Inspectors, one Clerical Assistant, one Shorthand-Typist, all whole-time officers, and myself (a part-time officer).

There is also a Health Visitor in the District.

## 8.—WATER SUPPLIES

The water supplies of the area have been generally satisfactory in quality.

As regards quantity, the systems are fully taxed and a number of shortages have been reported.

Regular bacteriological and certain chemical examinations have been made of the water supplies with the results set out in the following table:

Raw Water				Treated after going into Supply			
Bacteriological		Chemical		Bacteriological		Chemical	
Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
<b>Public</b> 17	5	5	—	30	4	7	—
<b>Private</b> 4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

### Water Supplies from Public Mains:

Direct to the Houses		By means of Standpipes	
No. of Dwelling Houses	Population (Estimated)	No. of Dwelling Houses	Population (Estimated)
<b>Public</b> 5,139	15,377	21	61
<b>Private</b> 382	1,180	—	—

No. of parishes with piped water supply:

(i) from public mains, 29; (ii) from private reservoirs, 2.

No. of parishes without a piped supply of water:

Nil.

The Public Water Supplies liable to have plumbo-solvent action are Bruton, South Brewham, Charlton Musgrove and, to a lesser extent, Penselwood. At Charlton Musgrove the water is passed over Magnesite, but the efficiency of this treatment is open to question.

A liming plant is available for use at Penselwood. No treatment is undertaken at Brewham or Bruton.



## Chlorination

Chlorination of the Penselwood (including Wincanton), Templecombe, Bruton and Castle Cary supplies has been maintained throughout the year.

## Water Supplies from Wells

No. of cases in which a piped supply was substituted for well water ... ..	1
No. of cases in which a piped supply was substituted for other private sources ... ..	15
No. of houses relying on well supplies ... ..	70
No wells were closed during the year.	

## Extensions or improvements of Supplies during the year

The reservoirs at Templecombe, Cuckoo Hill and Charlton Horethorne and the Bradley Head Bore Hole have been completed. Work is in progress on the Bratton Seymour Reservoir. Considerable progress has been made on the contracts for new mains—Oborne to Templecombe, Charlton Horethorne to Bratton Seymour, Wheatsheaf, Corton Denham, Weston Bampfylde, Queen Camel, Cadbury and Sigwells. Water is now available at Corton Denham where the principal Private supply has been unsatisfactory for many years.

A link main between Bratton Seymour and Yarlington has been completed to relieve shortages in the Yarlington Area.

## Future Proposals

These include Mains from Castle Cary to Alford including a reservoir, Lovington to North Barrow, Penselwood to Redlynch including a reservoir, Redlynch to Bruton, and Templecombe to South Cheriton.

# 9.—DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Parishes with main drainage and efficient disposal systems: Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary, Henstridge, Milborne Port, Queen Camel, South Barrow, Sparkford, Wincanton, Templecombe and North Cheriton.

Particulars of extensions, major renewals and future proposals are set out in the appended report from the Senior Public Health Inspector.

## Camping Sites

Number of Camping Sites (Permanent) ... ..	1
Acreage of Site ... ..	4.1
Maximum number allowed per acre (caravans) ... ..	7
Estimated number of campers during the year (average)	15
No. of Annual Licences issued for individual movable dwellings ... ..	14



## 10.—FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning.

## 11.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Milk

By an Order of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, which came into force on November 25th, 1957, your district was included in a "Specified Area", whereby in general only designated milks may be sold for human consumption.

(a)	Total number of Registered Dairies	...	...	10
(b)	Total number of Registered Distributors in the area			11
(c)	Total number of Registered Distributors outside the area	...	...	4
(d)	Number of Supplementary licences issued to dealers whose dairy is outside your area. (1 Pasteurised; 2 T.T.)	...	...	3
(e)	Number of Licensed Dealers of Designated Milk			11

### Milk Sampling

Nil.

### Ice Cream

No. of premises registered for:

(a)	Manufacture and retail	...	...	3
(b)	Manufacture only	...	...	Nil
(c)	Retail only	...	...	54

No Ice Cream samples were taken.

### Premises where food is prepared

See report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

### Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938

All food premises are subject to routine inspection and informal action has secured the desired result.

## 12.—SLAUGHTER HOUSES

(a)	No. in use under Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food	...	...	—
(b)	No. owned or leased by Local Authority	...	...	—
(c)	Private slaughter-houses: 4. Operating	...	...	4
(d)	Bacon factories: 1. Operating	...	...	1
(e)	No. in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption	...	...	—

Full details are included in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

## Knackers Yards

Number Registered: Nil.

### 13.—SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

No. in area:

(a)	Privately owned	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b)	Owned by Local Authority	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

Estimated average number of bathers daily during season:  
25—50.

Water used for filling pool: From Well.

Treatment: Recirculation, Aeration and Automatic Chlorination.

These Pools are at King's School, Bruton and Hazelgrove School, Queen Camel.

Samples taken: Nil.

### 14.—HOUSING

Total number of permanent dwellings in District	...	...	5,647
Total number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority	...	...	1,536

#### Action taken during the year

(1)	<i>Clearance Areas:</i>	
	Orders made—2, involving 12 houses.	
	Orders confirmed—4, involving 21 houses.	
(2)	Number of houses included in Clearance Areas still to be made	—
(3)	Number of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act, 1957	—
(4)	Number of houses demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957	—
(5)	Number of houses demolished under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 (Sec. 17 of the Housing Act, 1957)	4
(6)	Number of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished	—
(7)	Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	—
(8)	Number of houses closed as a result of an undertaking given by the owners or following the issue of Closing Orders...	31
(9)	Number of unfit houses occupied under licence	—
(10)	Number of houses made fit during year	55

(11) <i>Rent Act, 1957 (1st Schedule)</i> . Certificates of Disrepair:				
(a)	Number of applications received	...	...	2
(b)	Number of Certificates issued	...	...	1

	Houses erected during year		Houses in course of erection		<i>Gained</i> from conversion of large houses or buildings into flats or dwellings	<i>Lost</i> from conversion of two or more houses to one
	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes		
Local Authority ...	15	28	12	7	—	—
S.C.C. ...	—	—	—	2	—	—
Private Enterprise	—	11	—	5	1	6
Totals ...	15	39	12	14	1	6

No. of Post-War Houses erected from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1957		Housing Programme for 1958	
By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise	For Slum Clearance	For Other Purposes
W.R.D.C. 668	149	40 (Provisional)	Nil

### Improvements Grants

Average cost per dwelling approved: £807.

Average rent fixed (up to July 1st, 1957): £57.16.0.

(Further details will be found in the Public Health Inspector's Report).

### Houses required

(i)	To abate overcrowding	...	...	...	...	Nil
(ii)	To replace houses scheduled for demolition	...	...	...	...	110
(iii)	For other purposes	...	...	...	...	170
Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year						345
Number of Council Houses sold during year						2

### Any observations respecting the above

The figure in (iii) derives from the assumption that about half of those on the Waiting List are not in urgent need of a Council House.



# 15.—FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

## Part I of the Act

**1.—Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ... ..	22	2		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ... ..	81	43		
TOTAL ... ..	103	45		

## 2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	1	—	1	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ... ..	—	1	—	1	—



## Part VIII of the Act

### OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out- workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices served	Prose- cutions
Wearing apparel —Making, etc.	187	—	—	—	—	—

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. E. COULSON,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Council Offices,  
Wincanton,  
Somerset.  
*May, 1958.*

T. E. COULSON, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.E.,  
Medical Officer of Health,  
Balsam Gate,  
Wincanton.

Sir,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1957.

The total number of inspections was 5,139, which included the following:

**Public Health Acts**

Camping Sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Dangerous Buildings	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Drainage, Sewers and Sewage Disposal...	...	...	...	...	...	...	558
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
Refuse and Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	...	341
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	123

**New Buildings**

Byelaws and Town Planning	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,651
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<b>Housing</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	737
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**Food and Drugs Act**

Meat Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	887
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	18

<b>Petroleum</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
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<b>Factories</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	45
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<b>Miscellaneous</b>	...	...	...	...	...	...	374
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5,139

# POPULATION SERVED BY PIPED WATER SUPPLIES

Parish	Population Census		Total No. of houses	Public Supplies				Private Supplies	
				Supplied by pipe		Supplied by standpipe		Supplied by pipe	
	1931	1951		No. of houses	Est. Pop.	No. of houses	Est. Pop.	No. of houses	Est. Pop.
Alford .. ..	102	76	24	24	77	—	—	—	—
Ansford .. ..	305	506	171	168	501	—	—	1	3
Bratton Seymour	98	145	37	30	120	—	—	7	26
Bruham .. ..	378	443	128	120	418	2	6	4	13
Bruton .. ..	1,553	1,614	554	543	1,614	—	—	9	27
Castle Cary ..	1,664	1,575	642	631	1,611	—	—	7	17
Charlton									
Horethorne	463	492	159	148	469	6	18	2	6
Charlton									
Musgrove	377	359	123	115	345	—	—	5	15
Compton									
Pauncefoot	208	178	60	25	73	—	—	35	103
Corton Denham	228	222	70	3	9	—	—	64	206
Cucklington ..	211	219	64	59	194	—	—	3	9
Henstridge ..	1,040	1,096	381	367	1,074	3	8	3	9
Holton .. ..	233	209	76	66	182	—	—	7	20
Horsington ..	611	611	171	155	539	—	—	11	38
Lovington ..	189	201	54	54	199	—	—	—	—
Maperton ..	125	102	37	29	86	—	—	5	14
Milborne Port	1,655	1,637	571	561	1,616	3	8	6	17
North Barrow	94	85	27	27	86	—	—	—	—
North Cadbury	690	704	217	112	356	—	—	86	283
North Cheriton	178	157	63	62	155	—	—	1	3
Penselwood ..	285	254	87	76	225	—	—	6	17
Pitcombe ..	457	344	119	100	289	—	—	13	38
Queen Camel ..	472	522	178	166	490	—	—	4	12
Shepton									
Montague	231	205	66	50	159	—	—	5	16
South Barrow ..	86	115	42	42	116	—	—	—	—
South Cadbury	294	268	95	3	9	—	—	85	249
Sparkford ..	380	397	134	129	385	—	—	5	15
Stoke Trister ..	291	305	104	98	292	—	—	3	9
Templecombe ..	871	1,015	339	329	990	7	21	3	9
Wincanton ..	2,047	2,537	806	805	2,560	—	—	—	—
Yarlington ..	149	158	48	42	138	—	—	2	6
	15,965	16,751	5,647	5,139	15,377	21	61	382	1,180

## SEWERAGE

### Bruton

The Consulting Engineer’s proposals for repairs and reconstruction have been considered by the Minister and approved in principle with some minor variations. Samples of the Sewage Works effluent have not been satisfactory.

### Castle Cary

Samples of the Sewage Works effluent have not been satisfactory. A special series was taken through the Works and these indicated the Works were capable of dealing with normal domestic sewage. I believe the poor results could be attributed to an excess of infiltrating water and to drainage from farm premises. Both these matters are under investigation.

### Milborne Port

A sample of the Sewage Works effluent has proved satisfactory.

## North Cheriton

The sewerage scheme for North Cheriton has been completed. A number of house drainage systems have been connected without alteration and consequently roof and surface water have been included. In wet weather the flow is rather high and I anticipate that elimination of additional surface water may become necessary before long.

## Sparkford

The results of the analyses of the Sewage Works effluent have not been satisfactory. Infiltration, surface water and sludge bed drainage need thorough investigation.

## Templecombe

The works were completed early in the year and are operating satisfactorily, except that further adjustments are still incomplete at the Slades Hill Pumping Station.

A considerable amount of surface water gains access to the sewers in wet weather and in my view further separation will be necessary.

## Wincanton

No complaint has arisen concerning the effluent from the Wincanton Sewage Works.

## HOUSING

The following table gives details of the fifty-four dwellings erected during the year:

	Council Houses					Total	Private Enter- prise
	Flats		Non-parlour houses				
	F.2.B.	F.6.	N.P.	N.P.6.	N.P.7.		
Bruham ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bruton ... ..	—	4	2	3	—	9	1
Castle Cary ...	8	8	—	—	10	26	—
Charlton Horethorne	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Charlton Musgrove	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Henstridge ...	—	—	—	8	—	8	—
North Cadbury ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Stoke Trister ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Wincanton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
	8	12	2	11	10	43	11



## Slum Clearance Programme

There has been steady progress in dealing with unfit houses. The speed at which these houses can be dealt with is affected both by progress in the erection of new Council houses and by the number of elderly occupiers for whom suitable accommodation is difficult to find. During the year, 29 families were rehoused from houses dealt with in the "Slum Clearance" programme.

During the year 24 Notices under Sections 11 and 12, Housing Act, 1936 and Section 16, Housing Act, 1957 have been served, 7 Undertakings not to use have been accepted, and 19 Closing Orders and 5 Demolition Orders have been made.

The Council have declared the following Clearance Areas, involving a total of 12 houses:

Wincanton (South Side, Bayford).

Horsington (South Cheriton).

These Orders have been confirmed by the Minister as were two dealing with Tower Hill and West End, Bruton, declared in 1956.

## Requisitioning

Two properties remain under requisition.

## Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants

The policy of making Improvement Grants in all suitable cases has been continued and I append a Table showing the progress since the commencement of the scheme.

Number of houses involved in:

	Applications					Approvals					Resulting in houses		
	Re- ceived	With- drawn	Re- fused	Ap- proved	Under Con- sider- ation	Aban- doned	Com- pleted	Work in Hand	Not start- ed	Total	Saved	Gain'd	Lost
Agricultural Cottages	62	10	—	51	1	1	36	12	2	51	13	1	—
Owner/ Occupied	36	4	4	27	1	—	24	3	—	27	2	1	—
Other ..	15	3	—	12	—	—	9	3	—	12	2	—	1
Position at 31/12/57	113	17	4	90	2	1	69	18	2	90	17	2	1
Position at 31/12/56	91	9	4	71	7	1	41	24	5	71	7	2	—
Progress for 1957	22	8	—	19	2	—	28	18	2	48	10	—	1

## Movable Dwellings

Six new licences have been issued.

Eight licences have been renewed.

## Notifiable Disease

Disinfection has been carried out in one case.

## STATUTORY AND INFORMAL ACTION

In addition to the 35 Informal Notices outstanding at the beginning of the year, 71 have been served. Of the total of 106, one has been followed up by Statutory action, 2 withdrawn and 60 have been complied with.

37 Statutory Notices have been served, all under the Housing Acts. Three notices under the Public Health Acts and 37 under the Housing Acts have been complied with. 2 Notices under the Housing Acts have been withdrawn.

The following is a summary of the results obtained:

### Remedied

Defective Sewers and Drains	...	...	...	...	1
Overflowing and leaky Cesspools	...	...	...	...	17
Defective, insanitary or insufficient Closets:					
(a) at Dwellings	...	...	...	...	2
(b) at Factories...	...	...	...	...	1
(c) at Shops	...	...	...	...	2
Dangerous or dilapidated premises	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous Nuisances	...	...	...	...	25
Contraventions—Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	6
Milk and Dairies Regulations	...	...	...	...	1
Petroleum Regulations	...	...	...	...	1
Rodent Infestation	...	...	...	...	5

### Other Results

Housing Acts:

Houses made Fit	...	...	...	...	55
Undertakings not to use accepted	...	...	...	...	7
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	7
Houses lost by conversion	...	...	...	...	6
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	19
Demolition Orders made	...	...	...	...	5
Undertakings to repair complied with	...	...	...	...	1
Houses closed	...	...	...	...	29

## HOUSE REFUSE AND SALVAGE

The House Refuse and Salvage Scheme continues to operate satisfactorily by direct labour. Two ten cubic yard side-loading vehicles are used.

Weekly collections are made in Ansford, Bruton, Castle Cary, Milborne Port and Wincanton, involving an estimated population of 7,500.

The remainder of the District, with the exception of a few outlying and isolated premises, is covered each fortnight.

Charges are made for the collection of trade refuse.

The Bowden Tip has continued in use.

As will be seen from the following table, salvage receipts continue to increase steadily.

	Tons			Value £s.		
	1957	1956	1955	1957	1956	1955
Paper ... ..	242.40	210.65	185.22	1889.66	1660.1	1478.2
Ferrous Metals ...	9.59	6.15	10.72	24.54	14.8	30.8
Non-Ferrous Metals	0.06	0.10	0.12	4.84	8.45	8.21
Textiles ... ..	4.33	3.71	2.65	88.59	62.0	39.27
Bones ... ..	—	0.2	—	—	1.2	—
	256.38	220.81	198.71	2007.63	1746.55	1556.48

**Litter**

I have reported fully on the litter problem and the Council set aside £100 for the purchase and fixing of a number of litter bins and for obtaining, preparing and distributing a number of second-hand drums for use in villages. Owing to shortage of staff since June, 1957, when my Technical Assistant was appointed Clerical Assistant, it has been found impossible to implement these proposals.

**Closet Accommodation**

There were 53 conversions from earth to water closets during the year.

**Public Conveniences**

There are five public conveniences in the District. One each at Bruton, Castle Cary and Milborne Port, and two at Wincanton.



## FOOD

(1) The total number of food premises in the District is ... ..	238
This total is made up as follows:	
Hotels and Public Houses ... ..	58
Grocery Stores (includes greengroceries and village stores) ... ..	79
Butcheries ... ..	15
Confectioneries (includes sweets, cakes and ice cream) ... ..	19
Cafes ... ..	18
Fried fish and wet fish shops ... ..	6
Licensed slaughterhouses ... ..	5
Egg Packing and Poultry Plucking Stations ...	1
Dairies ... ..	6
Canteens (including one school kitchen and six school canteens) ... ..	11
Bakeries ... ..	20
	— 238
(2) The number of Food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, is	†75
For the sale of ice cream:	
Groceries... ..	26
Confectioneries ... ..	18
Dairies ... ..	1
Works canteens ... ..	1
Cafes ... ..	11
	— 57
Fried fish shops and cafes registered for fried fish ... ..	7
	— 7
Registered for sausage making: Butchers' shops ... ..	12
Registered for sausage making: Bacon factories ... ..	1
	— 13
	— †77
(†Two premises are each registered under two headings.)	
Number of registered dairies ... ..	6
Number of inspections of registered food premises ...	144

### Food Hygiene Regulations

Each food trader has been supplied with a memorandum of requirements under these regulations and follow-up action is planned.

## SHOPS ACT, 1950

The County Council continued the delegation of their powers under Section 38, sub-section (3), (4) and (5) of the Act, which



deal with lighting, facilities for meals and for washing. No contraventions have been found.

MEAT

The slaughterhouses licensed, in addition to the Bacon Factory at Bruton, are one in Castle Cary, one in Yenston (Henstridge), and two in Wincanton.

Despite difficulties, adequate inspection has been maintained. This has, of necessity, involved a reduction of work in other directions, but it is obvious from the table of results that this work is of utmost importance and every effort will be made to maintain this standard and to inspect all carcasses of animals slaughtered for human consumption.

Condemned meat, after the Manager has signed an undertaking that it shall not be used for human consumption, is slashed with a knife and the meat is then used either at pet shops or sold to merchants for fertilizer, etc.

It is my opinion that it is essential that there should be legal power to dye all condemned meat.

The results are included in the following table:

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Goats, Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	630	340	2,342	665	6,515
Number inspected ... ..	630	340	2,342	323	6,515
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	3	32	38	22	58
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	55	83	13	19	834
Percentage of the number inspected affected ... ..	9.2	33.8	2.17	12.7	13.6
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	11	1	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	21	36	—	—	94
Percentage of the number inspected affected ... ..	3.5	13.8	0.04	—	1.45
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Cases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ... ..	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—

**Miscellaneous Foods**

During the year 1,794 tins and packages of various foodstuffs, weighing approximately 22½ cwts., were condemned. These foods were disposed of by burial at the Refuse Tip.

**RODENT CONTROL**

No charge is made for operations at dwellings.

Charges based on the actual cost of operations continue to be made in respect of business and agricultural premises.

The sewers, sewage works and refuse tips are all subject to regular treatment.

The summary of operations is given in the following table:

	Class of Property			
	L.A.	D.H's.	Bus.	Agric.
Prevalence of rats and/or mice ...	3	215	17	10
Number infested by:				
Rats: Major ... ..	1	77	3	8
Minor ... ..	2	119	7	2
Mice: Major ... ..	—	1	—	—
Minor ... ..	—	18	7	—
Number of properties inspected ...	3	236	17	14
Number of properties treated ... ..	3	215	17	10

**BYELAWS AND TOWN PLANNING**

**Byelaws**

The following tables summarize the action taken during the year:

In abeyance at 31st December, 1956 ... ..	8	
New applications ... ..	223	
	—	231
Approved ... ..	222	
Rejected ... ..	3	
Withdrawn ... ..	2	
	—	227
In abeyance at 31st December, 1957 ... ..	4	

*Infringements:*

Relating to lack of notices, etc. ... ..	11
Number which also included defects ... ..	4
Defective work corrected ... ..	2
No further action ... ..	7
Plans presented ... ..	3

Town Planning

	B/F 1st Jan. 1957	New Appli- cations	Total	No. Ap- proved	No. Re- fused	No. With- drawn	Not Yet Cat.	Per- mitted Develop- ment	No Deci- sion
Cat. A ...	7	32	39	33	—	2	—	—	4
Cat. B ...	38	84	122	78	5	9	—	—	30
Cat. C ...	33	93	126	70	9	9	—	—	38
Cat. D ...	16	32	48	24	—	3	—	—	21
Others ...	—	19	19	—	—	—	4	15	—
	94	260	354	205	14	23	4	15	93

*Infringements :*

36 cases were reported during the year.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient servant,  
R. G. GRAY.











